

## **Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland**

**Submission No:** 143  
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**Submitter Comments:**

Sten Rasmussen,

Volunteering  
Rural Bush Fire Brigade.

16th Feb 2025

I am a retired sugar cane farmer, and for 45 years was involved with my fellow farmers during the crushing season with two sugar cane fires, weekly and as District ringed timber cattle grazing blocks, there was the occasional Bush Fire. We never had a cane fire get out of control, and with Bush Fires, we quickly put it out, there was no damage to houses or outbuildings.

60 odd years ago the Australian Army was sent to control Bush Fires in Victoria, which the Army did, what did they have in common with us farmers, Knopsacks, a simple piece of equipment. The only piece of equipment that a fire fighter, the flexibility and mobility move in timber, sugar cane blocks, any able-bodied person can soon learn how to use it, we also used strategic back burns.

So what the States Governments do, they ban Rural Fire Fighters from using Knopsacks. Why? big secret.

With our methods of fire burning and control we had good outcomes while with the Rural Fire Authorities, Disaster.

Would I volunteer to be a member of Rural Bush Fire Brigade No way, neither would my fellow farmers.

Hoping that you may consider my letter, before you put it in the waste paper bin.

Yours faithfully

Sten Rasmussen -